SOUTH VIET NAM In Struggle

7th Year — July 16, 1973

No 206

Address: HT 1217 B-SVN
c/o DAZIMINA HANOI
19, Hai Ba Trung, Hanoi, DRVN
and all RSVN Embassies, Information Bureaux in foreign countries

CENTRAL ORGAN OF THE SOUTH VIET NAM NATIONAL FRONT FOR LIBERATION

editorial

The First Priority

THE signing of two cease-fire agreements since January 28, 1973 has spelled out the gravity of the situation in South Viet Nam. Both arrangements have been systematically violated by the US and Saigon side. Not only has the fighting not been halted but it has even grown fiercer in some places. Blood has continued to be shed, houses to be destroyed, thousands of families to be robbed of their members. Still incomplete data show that between January 28 and early June 1973, there were more than 20,000 encroaching actions including over 100 at regiment, division or similar strength and nearly 43,000 police raids. And since the June Communiqué, thousands of breaches have been recorded which include nearly 300 inroads and more than 2,000 police operations under the "pacification" programme. Remarkably enough, in defiance of the 14 points which had just been agreed on, and taking advantage of the PLAF strict observance of the cease-fire order, Saigon troops mounted a large-scale incursion into the liberated areas of Chuong Thien, Can Tho, Vinh Long provinces. 43 infantry battalions and 3 armour battalions were deployed. In the Go Quao area alone, 14 infantry battalions and 3 river units were hurled on Nam Bac, the Ba Lon river, the Moc Hoa canal, Hoa An, Long Binh and Long My. Right on June 16, in Kontum, barely one day after the second cease-fire became effective, they assembled a force about division size supported by tanks, artillery and aircraft and staged many forays into various areas of Dak Rocot, Ngoc Bay, Trung Nghia, Ngo Thanh, Pley Krong, Pley Clo, Lang Lau, controlled by the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam. On June 22 at noon, the command of Saigon division 23 sent a letter to the Kontum area International Team calling for the withdrawal of the PLAF from that locality, short of which it would launch a full-scale attack. After that they bombed and strafed Dak To airfield located deep in the PRG territory.

SO it is apparent from all the above that in some places, hostilities have been stepped up, particularly in strategic points held by the PRG. Such a state of things is at utter variance with the letter and spirit of the Paris Agreement and its Protocol on the cease-fire and the June 13, 1973 Communiqué. It has thrown a lurid light on US and Saigon regime's intention to carry on the fighting and attempts to grab land, to consolidate and expand its neo-colonialist domination. It has confirmed the sabre-rattling of the White House, the Pentagon and its Saigon satrap. While Kissinger declared that the US was not bound by the Joint Communiqué to stop the bombing in Cambodia and the new Secretary of Defence said he would not rule out the possibility of resuming air strikes against North Viet Nam, Thieu clamoured that "peace can only be achieved with military power," that Saigon's force must be beefed up and its determination to fight and defeat communism must be made plain. Such deeds and words of the US and the Saigon administration are proof enough of their responsibility. If they go on with such a behaviour, genuine peace will be inconceivable.

They have been compounding it with fabricated news on alleged Mig activity over Quang Tri and doctored statistics of "communist violations of the Agreement." No one can be taken in by such stunts, in which Saigon is a past master. But they are only too flimsy a smokescreen for its own too transparent breaches and will simply enhance its true colours as an infamous gang of ferocious fire-eaters.

AS a tireless advocate of a peaceful Viet Nam solution for nearly 5 years and a signatory to the Paris Agreement, regarded as a historic victory of the Vietnamese nation, the PRG has proved to be the most loyal executor and upholder of the Paris Agreement and of its letter and spirit. It has called on all its armed forces to strictly comply with the cease-fire order but it has also instructed them to remain highly vigilant and fully prepared to retaliate for any encroachment on the liberated areas or any harm done to the life and property of the people there. The PLAF have been scrupulously abiding by the order and shown utmost restraint. They have time and again appealed to the Saigon troops to stop their attacks and withdraw to their pre-Agreement positions and together set to implementing the cease-fire and achieving national reconciliation and concord. At the Two-Party Joint Military Commission, the PRG delegation has put forth many reasonable and sensible proposals to this effect, and suggested that local GO's of both sides make direct contacts, as stipulated by the Agreement and the Communiqué for discussions on the

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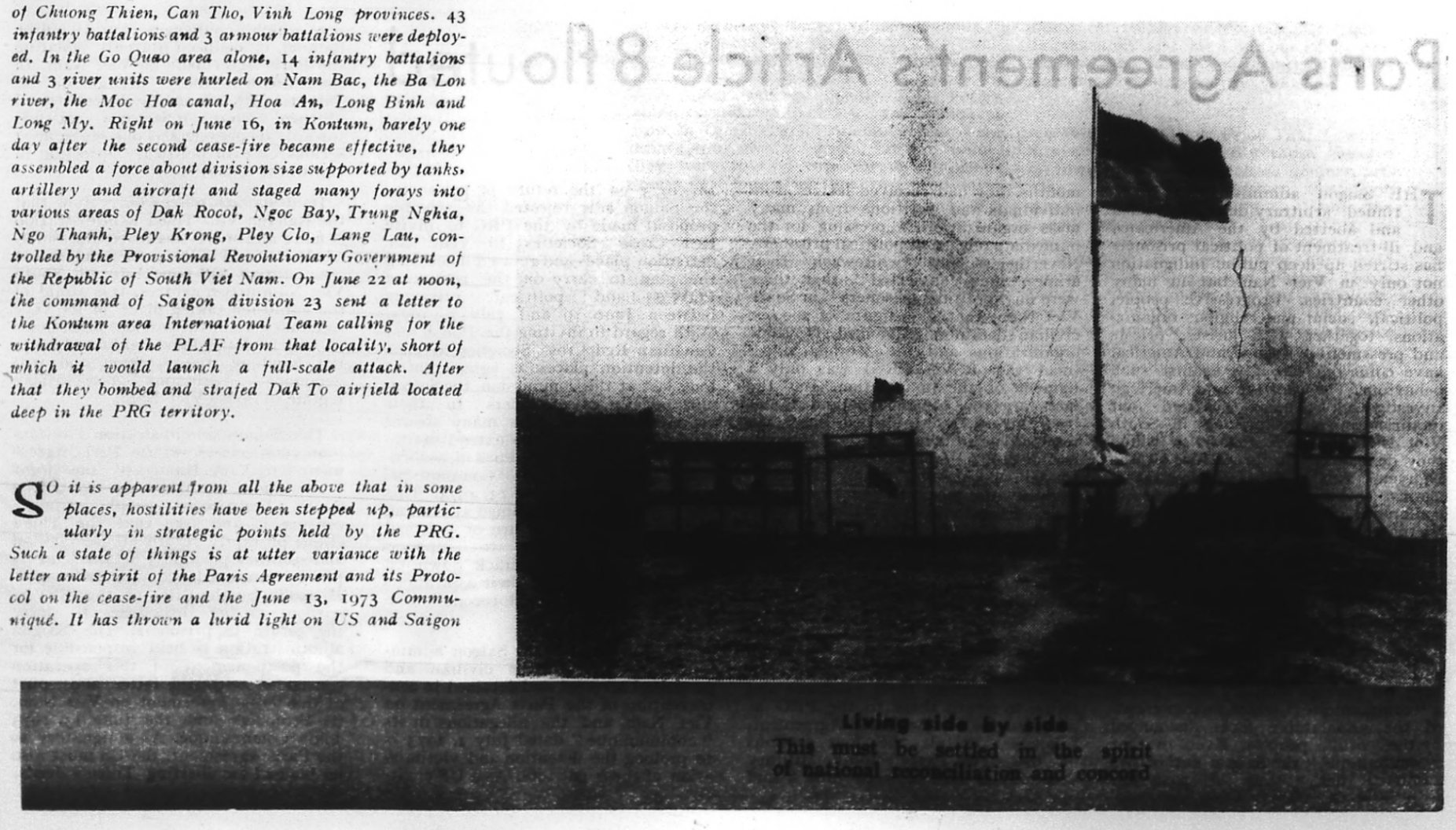

Living side by side
This must be settled in the spirit of national reconciliation and concord

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A baby's cries in jail

IT is late at night but you are still awake
From grief or from frustration ?
Anxiety is gripping my soul
At a baby's distant cries outside.
They sound sad and sorrowful
In the desolate and silent jail.
They tear to shreds the air above,
They stab our hearts shaken with sobs.
Listen to those screams
Choked with hatred and wrath
Which make them ring throughout the night.
I know why they have snatched you from your ma's breasts
Like a tender calf from his mother buffalo.
An eerie wall of darkness is put between mother and baby.
You are only a baby in arms
But you already have to taste the bitternesses of life.
Even if you had a soft bed and feathery pillow,
It could not replace the loving lap.
Where is your mama ? — In a solitary cell, I am sure.
I know you are craving for her milk
And your cries which wither grass and plants
Rend asunder every human being's heart.
They work into a rattle and die down.
In her dark cell, your ma is listening to the light clatter of rain on the tiles,
Frozen by gushes of cold wind,
In the forlorn mantle of the night wrapping the jail.
Stop crying, little one, and ease my heart's agony
And your mom's lancinating pain.
Stop crying and seek solace in sleep.
To-morrow will conjure away darkness,
And you will be restored to the warmth and softness of your ma's arms,
To the land's and the people's love.
And then your cries in the desolation of this hell
Will become a horrible dream,
Where even babies are imprisoned,
Severed from their mothers' breasts.
All the world's water rain
Cannot wash those executioners from their crime.
Comrade, such stories are common occurences,
Of heart - wrenching pain, of overwhelming love.
How do we yearn for reunion day,
When North and South are brought together in an ocean of love,
A gorgeous morrow illuminating our whole land,
With no more baby's cries in the desolation of detention camps.

An anonymous poem from Con Dao (Con Son) prison

Paris Agreement's Article 8 flouted

THE Saigon administration's continued arbitrary detention, aided and abetted by the Americans, and ill-treatment of political prisoners has stirred up deep public indignation not only in Viet Nam but in many other countries. Progressive people, political, social and religious organizations, together with jurists, priests and pressmen in Europe and America, have come out strongly against such behaviour. The Canadian and American Investigating Teams carried out inquiries in many prisons in South Viet Nam and made reports in which they denounced the brutalities of the Nguyen Van Thieu administration against prisoners. The international conference for the release of South Vietnamese political detainees and Amnesty International have repeatedly raised their voices to demand that the Saigon authorities immediately set free tens of thousands of political prisoners now still in jail.

Cornered, Thieu has been trying hard to extricate himself. On July 2, 1973, his Foreign Ministry made public a "communiqué" which misrepresented the unpalatable facts denounced by the world's peoples. Even in that "communiqué" the Saigon authorities admitted that " over the past few months they had received letters from individuals and petitions from many mass organizations" pressing for the immediate release of political prisoners. Nevertheless, to whitewash their crimes, they "asserted" that there were no "political prisoners" in South Viet Nam, that the figure of 200,000 civilian detainees advanced by some organizations and the "other side" (read the RSVN PRG) was only a figment of the imagination. But the facts are too conspicuous and it has been universally established that Thieu is detaining in over 1,000 jails—known and unknown—from 200,000 to 300,000 people whose only crime has been militating for peace, national independence, democracy, neutrality, resolutely resisting the aggressors and their henchmen in the defence of the national interests, and advocating democratic freedoms and better living conditions.

It is known to everyone that Thieu has been changing the records of political detainees into common law prisoners' to deny their existence and refuse to return them to the PRG as provided for in the Paris Agreement. Likewise, at all the four sessions of the Two-Party Joint Military Commission held between June 6 and 28, 1973 on the return of prisoners, the Saigon side rejected the sensible proposal made by the PRG to invite Red Cross Societies to visit the detention places and refused discussing the plan to carry on the return of POW's and political prisoners between June 29 and July 7, 1973. With regard to inviting the Polish and Canadian Red Cross Societies to visit the detention places as agreed on at long last at the Commission, the Saigon authorities gave orders to their representatives to raise many absurd objections so as not to extend invitations to Red Cross Societies in accordance with the Joint Communiqué signed in Paris on June 13, 1973. This was but a manoeuvre aimed at eluding the question of the return of political prisoners, continuing to suppress democratic freedoms, crack down on the people and thwart their aspirations for peace and national reconciliation and concord.

The reluctance of the Saigon administration to return the civilian and personnel arrested and detained in contravention of the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam and the allegations in its "communiqué" dated July 2, 1973 is to prolong the detention and victimization of these patriots. As a US creature which challenges world public opinion, it has been brazenly violating the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam. In its statement made in London on July 1, 1973, Amnesty International affirmed that "Saigon's attitude towards its prisoners is one of the most serious cases of political repression in the world today."

Its desperate moves only show that the Nguyen Van Thieu administration is more and more weakened and isolated. It is afraid of the protest movement now surging up powerfully in South Viet Nam urban centres. It is afraid of the explosion taking place in its very sanctuary when the patriots just released will lend the inhabitants and helping hand in their action and will denounce barbarous penitentiary regime in South Viet Nam.

The Saigon administration's behaviour runs counter to the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam and the Joint Communiqué on June 13, 1973. The South Vietnamese people strongly censure it and urge that the Thieu clique promptly return all the civilian and military personnel detained in its prisons in accordance with the proposal made by the PRG of the RSVN, without raising difficulties to delay the return of prisoners. The Saigon administration is held responsible for the postponement of this operation consistent with the letter and spirit of the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam, its Protocols and the June 13, 1973 Joint Communiqué. As a signatory to the Paris Agreement, the US must also be blamed for abetting Thieu's deeds.

Well deserved penalty

• Despite the new cease-fire which came into effect at midday on June 15, the Saigon army has been mounting encroaching operations on the liberated zone along with police and pacification raids in Saigon-held areas. The liberation forces have resolutely fought back and meted out due punishment to the bellicists and peace-wreckers.

At 4 p.m. on May 25, they intercepted and decimated a battalion of the 21st Division in Long My area, Phung Hiep district, Can Tho.

On June 18, regional forces in Tra On district, Vinh Long, inflicted heavy casualties on a company and two battalions of "civil guards." In Tra Vinh province, the same day, the liberation forces drove an intruding "civil guard" battalion out of Cang Long district, wiping out many of them.

Shortly after the cease-fire stipulated by the June 13 Joint Communiqué was ordered, the liberation forces foiled a land-grabbing inroad of Saigon troops west of Bach Ma area. In Ba Ria—Long Khanh on June 19, other liberation units opened up on Saigon raiders in Long Le district, putting out of action two companies and a platoon of the 325th "civil guard" battalion. The Saigon fire base on Nui Dat, Duc Thanh district, which used to fire wantonly at the population of adjoning areas, was also silenced.

• Between 11 hrs (local time) on June 15 and June 30 Saigon units launched around 3,377 attacks on liberated areas in Western Nam Bo. 282 of these involved battalion-size units of Saigon regulars. 50 regular and "civil guard" battalions were directly commanded by the CO's of the 4th Army Corps Area and the 21st Division in the devastation of fields and orchards and the massaere of civilians. Can Tho and Rach Gia provinces, besides, were plastered with over 7,000 artillery rounds and more than 360 bombs, which caused serious losses in the people's lives and property.

After repeated warnings, the liberation forces had to go into action and, in a fortnight, knocked out 1,200 Saigon soldiers, sank or damaged 29 war vessels, and captured or destroyed large quantities of weapons. The people, meanwhile, forced the intruders out of dozens of posts.

• The PLAF command in Kontum has warned the Saigon army against further hostile actions against PRG-controlled areas.

It said any other Saigon military action would be repaid in kind, and further bombardements and commando infiltration would be countered by attacks on the Saigon army's own rear bases.

in the cities

Defying police cordon, the Saigonese rush on to welcome the PRG military delegation

• A group of 10 Saigon deputies issued on July 3 a statement against Thieu's off-year senatorial election scheduled for August 26, pointing out that whatever election Thieu might organize would run counter to the nation's interests and to the unity of the country. They said the planned election would be only a travesty of democracy, since all the candidates belonged to Thieu's camp and its returns had been decided beforehand. They declared they would all boycott the election.

• The people of Vinh Long province were brazenly forced to go to the polls on May 20 and June 17 to elect "village councils." Saigon soldiers were ordered to cast each forty or fifty ballots for hand-picked candidates. More brazen still, the police in Vinh Xuan village openly told voters which candidates to choose and which to drop. In Dong Thanh village, voters were pushed into booths where, at gun point, they were told to vote for 8 notorious agents. Not long after that two candidates publicly declared the election invalid, and resigned.

• None of the students recently freed by the Saigon administration—after arbitrary detention from May 1972—has been given any official release certificate, which, with their having to report to the police once a month, amounts to being under perpetual surveillance.

Many of them have publicly denounced the Thieu administration for maltreating them and charging them with working for the NFL while what they actually did was militating for peace.

• As yet there has been no freedom of speech in Saigon, and the press continues to be brutally gagged. Following the seizure of the June 21 issue of *Cong Luan* (Public Opinion) and the June 23 issue of *Dien Tin* (Telegraph) the police is doing everything to dissuade agencies from distributing these two dailies.

• The Saigon administration has intimated that it would bring to the Military Tribunal the Presidents of the Petroleum and Chemical Workers Union and the Private Bank Employees Union, and also the Secretary General of the Railway Workers Union, and inflict on them the death sentence for "plotting against public order and national security."

This move has been denounced as a blow to the welfare and peace movement now surging in all urban centres of South Viet Nam.

• The Union of the Workers at the Ha Tien Cement Factory has said a slow-down, or even a general strike, will be called unless the employers reinstate Mr Chanh, its treasurer, and Mr Long one of its controllers, who have been dismissed for demanding pay raises for their mates.

• With the "High Price Tax," which hits everybody, especially those engaged in liberal professions such as doctors, artistes..., and small businessmen, the Saigon administration is planning to double tax money as against last year. This, of course, has met with loud protests from all quarters. Business circles have held emergency meetings, and Father Thanh Long, President of the *Van But*—an organization of writers and artists—has convened an extraordinary press conference against the imposition of this kind of tax on writers, publishing houses, and distribution agencies.

• Hundreds of families doing small business in the area between Hang Duong Market and Ninh Kieu ferry landing in the Can Tho provincial capital were evicted in mid-June.

The victims protested to the governor who had to cancel the order.

• Students in Saigon and their parents are very displeased with the high price of text books, which, along with exorbitant school fees, is a great financial drain. Many book stores have closed down, and only a few are left in the twin cities of Saigon—Gia Dinh with an over 3 million population.

peace trend and anti-war actions in the Saigon army

US-Thieu plot

Even after the signing of the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam, the US and Nguyen Van Thieu have not ceased hurling troops into operations to inflict death and destruction on the population and to exacerbate enmity.

Under command of the US "Embassy" in Saigon' the Thieu administration has been squandering money and energy on attempts to corrupt the minds of the Saigon troops and cultivate in them the "fight to a bitter end" spirit, the "ideal of an anti-communist nation" and "wholehearted loyalism to the republican regime" in order to help the implantation of US neo-colonialism in South Viet Nam.

It has launched smear campaigns to hoodwink the population, sent psywar officers down to small units to misrepresent facts in South Viet Nam, wrest the substance of the Paris Agreement, held displays of photos and fabricated exhibits in Saigon and Da Nang to whip up hatred in some elements in the Saigon army. After his US trip, Thieu launched a "truth campaign" to indoctrinate the people with the "anti-communist philosophy". He tried to impart to them the concept that "it is impossible to co-exist with communism" and repeatedly declared that he continued to enforce all the war legislation and took a series of fascist measures regarding his troops. On such occasions as May Day, May 7 and June 6, he gave orders to confine them all to their barracks, increased security measures in all army units, to watch and lynch those soldiers who sympathized with the patriots or stand for national reconciliation and concord. He also instructed field officers to "shoot dead" all deserters.

Thieu compels all army officers, police officers and rural authorities to join his "Democratic Party", to set up "Political Action Committees" from provinces to hamlets and headed by wicked officers in order to bully the inhabitants and terrorize soldiers likely to mutiny, rise up or cross over to the side of the people.

Meanwhile, Thieu has been resorting to "economic" measures to corrupt and bind the Saigon soldiery more tightly to the US war chariot.

Turning their minds to the Fatherland

The pitious sight of GIs quietly folding up the Stars and Stripes and packing up has left deep impressions on the minds of Saigon troops. Though they are exhorted to oppose the revolution and the people, they cannot overlook the fact that "defeated, the Americans have had to decamp and now without them, Thieu is in danger!"

The Paris Agreement has sent a whiff of fresh air into the minds of most of Saigon troops now living in a choking atmosphere of war. Peace has been since long a pressing need and a deep aspiration of those who have mistakingly taken up arms to defend the sordid interests of a foreign country.

While in the past four months, the Americans and Nguyen Van Thieu have left no stone unturned to prod the Saigon soldiers into more stubborn hostility to the revolution and bitterer hatred for the patriots, there has been a growing desire among them to "return to the fold." The appearance everywhere — on walls, vehicles, knapsacks, clothes... — of "stacked rifles" badges, has prompted Thieu to cramp a ban on these symbols of the wearied mood of the "Republican army" and arrest armymen sporting them. But the precaution has only given an impulse to their use, to disobedience, anti-war actions, defections and contacts with the revolutionary authorities. This has given food for thought to *Tien Tuyen* (Frontline), an anti-communist organ of the Saigon army, which wrote:

To go into action is to be lost to the sentiment
That North and South spring from the same ancestors:
The Kings Hung, and the same Lac Hong race.
Incapacitated and heading for your doom,
Can you style yourselves heroes while guilty of heinous crimes?

Dien Tin (Telegraph) seemed to reflect the aspirations of the Saigon troops when it printed in its April 12, 1973 issue these verses:

Let's leave arms and ammunition lying on the battlefield
And go back to rebuild our native village,
To fill up the gaping craters and plant sweet potatoes and cassava on,
To clear minefields and grow crops there.
. . . .
Let bygones be bygones,
We shall bathe in the water of our own pond.
Belonging to the same Lac Hong race
North and South must live together happily under the same roof.

After his US tour, Thieu has become more and more truculent. He has egged on his soldiers to "fight to the last" and instructed his thugs to dispose of those of his military personnel released by the PRG who are bold enough to speak of the humanitarian policy of the NFL and PRG. In this connection, Saigon army's mouthpiece *Tien Tuyen* wrote:

There are people who study abroad,
To acquire a wide knowledge and a supernatural force
But who have forgotten their Fatherland and are lost to all national sentiments
And depend on a big power for everything.
. . . .
Never can the imperialists be trusted.
Despite the cease-fire, they continue the war
Wake up! You who bring in elephants to trample on your ancestors' graves
You, the sworn enemy of all!

Swinging into militant action

The call of the Fatherland and their families has urged Saigon soldiers to swing into militant action. Since January this year, there have been cases of refusal of marching orders and mutinies in which they stormed military posts, punished bullies, destroyed their weapons and contacted the people and revolutionary power or willingly joined in popular demonstrations against the Saigon authorities' sabotage of the Paris Agreement and national reconciliation and concord.

On February 3, the 147th Para Brigade sent on an encroaching action on the liberated area of Cua Viet (Quang Tri province) did not budge an inch despite their officers' guns pressed against their backs. Some of the men even sought assistance from the inhabitants to return to their families. The men of the Armoured Regiment of the 5th Division refused to go on an inroad into the liberated area of Cu Chi district (Gia Dinh province). Officers of an air force unit resisted orders to bombard the free zone of Gia Dinh province. A flight lieutenant said to his men: "As peace has been restored, I am fed up with all this fighting; I want to return to schoolmaster's job which I had before being sent to Thu Duc for training."

Within a week, the officers and men of Battalion 2, Regiment 12, Division 7, and of Regiments 31 and 32 stationed in the Mekong delta rose up six times to kill over 40 wicked officers and call on their mates in other units to throw away their guns and defect. Thousands of soldiers have thus gone over the hill and rejoined their families. From January to March 1973, nearly fifty thousand Saigon soldiers in My Tho and Ben Tre went a.w.o.l. From March 2 to April 15, three thousand men of Division 9 and Division 21 stationed in the Southwest also left their ranks. Meanwhile, regular soldiers, "security guards" "people's self-defence" men in 7 battalions and 10 companies have carried out 22 anti-war actions, opposed forays into the liberated areas and got in touch with the revolutionary power for help to return to their families. In February 1973, two "security" battalions in Duc Hoa sub-sector (Long An province) disposed of 32 thugs and deserted in a body, and and their units were thus written off. "Security" Battalions 413, 430 and 420 in Ben Tre province, disobeyed route saying: "Peace has been re-established, the Paris Agreement has been signed, any violation of it will be duly punished. It is up to each of us to decide his own fate."

Following the men of Battalions 415 and 434 who liquidated their wicked commanders, destroyed their weapons and joined the liberated areas, the soldiers of Bao An Battalions 454, 452 and 401, also defected and returned to their native villages; many of them enlisted into the Liberation armed forces.

Encouraged by their families and fellow-villagers, alive to the PRG policy toward them and the brutality of the Thieu administration, many men in the Saigon army have turned their protest action — mutiny, desertion, punishment of warmongers — into a movement which is mounting vigorously with every passing day.

Saigon soldiers never forget this rout and never want it to recur

"The bird and the sun" dance

Who will represent South Viet Nam at the 10th World Youth and Students' Festival ?

LIKE their friends in all continents the youth of South Viet Nam is feverishly preparing for the 10th World Youth and Students' Festival due to be hold in Berlin.

Their 157 delegates come from all parts of the country, including areas still under Saigon's control, belong to various nationalities and hold differing political leanings and religious beliefs.

They will be headed by Ta Thi Kieu of the People's Liberation Armed Forces, who was awarded the title "Heroine who, unarmed, captured whole enemy garrisons."

Representing the PLAF will be 8 heroes, heroines and elite fighters from units stationed in Quang Tri up North to Ca Mau down South. The youngest of all will be first-class elite fighter Nguyen Thi Hoa from indomitable My Tho, taking up arms for the defence of her native village in her prime youth, she has been credited with the knocking out, in 17 battles, of 174 American and Saigon soldiers, a figure almost 9 times her age.

Spokesmen for the young in the Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces will be: Professor Le Van Hao, doctor in ethnology, Saigon and Hue Universities', former lecturer and Chairman of the Hue Committee of the ANDPF; woman writer Van Trang very popular with South Vietnamese readers; and Professor Ton That Duong Tiem of royal descent, former lecturer at the Bo De (Buddhist) School of Hue, and member of the Hue Committee of the ANDPF.

The delegation to the Berlin Festival will include representatives of recent escapees from Saigon jails such as Hoang Ma Ly, a former student of the Van Hanh College (Buddhist), Saigon, and girl students Nguyen Thi Chinh and Le Thi Do. They all want to meet and thank their friends around the world who have raised their voices for their release and that of thousands of other young detainees still languishing in the prisons of the Saigon regime.

Among the delegates will be Vo Thi Lien, the female survivor of the Son My massacre, one of hundreds and thousands of mass killings perpetrated by the American aggressors thousands of miles away from the US.

The youth of South Viet Nam deeply love life, a life governed by national and universal values. They know how to fight for the defence of their fatherland and also how to sing songs, play music and compose verses. Their delegation to the Festival will also consist of musicians, singers, dancers, photographers and cameramen. The Liberation Youth Ensemble led by musician Huy Quang is composed of over 30 artistes and possesses a 20-item repertoire. It used to perform in all theatres of operations for the armed forces and the population.

Liberation film workers will show films on events of topical interest and documentaries picturing the hard life and the tough and courageous fighting of the people and PLAF. *Quang Tri on a spring day*, *Girl Fighters of Company 3* and *In the wake of the messenger* will be shown for the first time abroad at the get-together.

From all parts of South Viet Nam, young resisters are gathering to leave for Berlin. They will tell the best of their achievements to their friends the world over—they will perform for them their songs and music ringing with the militant solidarity and fervour of the South Vietnamese youth.

Drum dance,

South Viet Nam delegation to attend World Youth Festival

A delegation of South Vietnamese Youths and Students was en route to attend the 10 World Youth Festival at the invitation of its Preparatory Committee.

The 150-member delegation is led by Ta Thi Kieu, an heroine of South Viet Nam PLAF and Executive of South Viet Nam Liberation Youth Union and of the Union of South Viet Nam Liberation Women.

A remarkable liberation film: in the wake of the messenger

AMONG the feats of arms resounding throughout Viet Nam and in the world, there is the silent yet invaluable contribution of nameless fighters: the *giao lien* (messengers).

They are boys and girls of the South roaming the country, the Truong Son Range, the immense Mekong delta, the extensive coastal areas of Central Viet Nam, and even the enemy's sanctuaries. They have established vital networks of communication that have never been severed.

In 30 minutes, the film makes it possible for the spectators to follow those unsung fighters through the breadth and length of South Viet Nam.

While on the Truong Son Range the *giao lien* manage to find shortcuts to victory, in the Plain of Reeds they tote heavy loads of documents of all kinds, AK rifles slung over their shoulders, with Americain choppers incessantly roaring overhead. There are girls among them (younger than the war itself) who, barefooted, safely guide cadres and troops across lifelines bristling with adverse watch-towers and garrisons, and — at rest time — prove to be excellent house keepers. It happens to others to operate in enemy controlled areas on market-goers' boats, to hide in a tractor of a peasant in the Plain of Reeds and use a Saigon flag as an expedient safe-conduct.

The *giao lien* measure wits with the adversary when, crossing a river, they run into their ships. They become sappers when they have to back out a path through a heavily-guarded strategic lifeline. When necessary they can run urgent orders to the battlefields. These verses are widely known in South Viet Nam:

He who loves the effervescent
Truong Son Range
He who crosses the immense
Plains of Reeds in the
sunshine,
He who reaps a crop of
victories
Should never forget the **giao lien**

The feats of arms registered by the revolution are marked with the *giao lien's* stamp and the labyrinth of their networks will always operate.

PHUONG NAM

Syrian military delegation visits DRVN

AT the invitation of the Ministry of National Defence of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, a military delegation of the Syrian Arab Republic led by Lieutenant-General Mostapha Tlass, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the Syrian Armed Forces and Minister of Defence, arrived in Hanoi on June 30, 1973, for a good will visit to Viet Nam.

The delegation was warmly welcome and offered a banquet where General Vo Nguyen Giap, Minister of National Defence praised, on behalf of the people and armed forces of Viet Nam, the valiant Syrian people and armed forces engaged in a persistent struggle against imperialism to defend their fundamental national rights, build a prosperous and progressive country, and contribute to the safeguarding of peace and security in the Middle East and the rest of the world.

The Vietnamese host reaffirmed the support of the Vietnamese people and armed forces for the legitimate effort of the fraternal Syrian people and armed forces to recover the territories occupied by the US-backed Israeli aggressors. "The Vietnamese people identify themselves with the Palestinian people's battle to win back their lawful national rights," the General said.

He expressed sincere thanks to the government, people and armed forces of the Syrian Arab Republic for their sympathy with, and support for, the anti-US war resistance for national salvation of the Vietnamese people.

In his reply, Lieutenant-General Mostapha Tlass conveyed the heartiest congratulations from President Hafez Al Assad to the fighting Vietnamese people, the great Viet Nam Workers' Party and the victorious and glorious army of the heroic Vietnamese people.

He said: "Today, the US aggressors have realized their total failure, and are compelled to accept the rightful demands and recognize the legitimate aspirations of the Vietnamese people. The Paris Agreement on Viet Nam can be considered a proud achievement of the heroic Vietnamese people. It is also a strong inspiration for the Syrian armed forces in their confrontation with the Israeli aggressors supported by the US imperialists.

While in Viet Nam, the Syrian military delegation was cordially received by Premier Pham Van Dong. It visited the Army Museum, a missile unit defending the capital, the Command of the Red River Left Bank Military Sector, the Military Command of Haiphong, the Sao Do (Red Star) unit of the People's Air Force, the Bach Mai hospital, Hai Phong port city and a militia unit in Hai Phong. It also called at the Special Representation of the Republic of South Viet Nam in the DRVN.

It left for home on July 5.

six months of economic rehabilitation and development in the North

IN the first six months of this year, by the nation's big victory, the various branches and localities of North Viet Nam exerted great efforts in restoring and developing the economy, healing the wounds of war, stabilizing production and the people's life and driving ahead socialist construction.

On the agricultural front, the most noteworthy achievement was the increase of area under "spring" rice in excess of the plan, or 6,000 hectares larger than last year, and equal to the acreage in 1965, the record year so far. 12 provinces (many located in the delta like Thai Binh, Hai Hung, Nam Ha) fulfilled or surpassed their targets.

The area grown with auxiliary crops, vegetables, beans and industrial crops also showed a sharp rise compared with last year. 3 times more wheat was farmed and so was noticeably more soya, tobacco...

In stock breeding, the herd of pigs was 5.6 percent higher than last year — 7.9 percent in 7 provinces and cities of the delta (14.2 percent in Hai Hung, 10.6 percent in Thai Binh, 6.9 percent in Nam Ha). More significantly still, the herd of sows and of sucking pigs went up by 11 percent. That rising of oxen and buffaloes has started in a number of localities. In Nghe An, in the spring crop season of this year, it went up 3 percent over last year. Many measures have been taken in Nghe An to encourage co-operative members of the midlands and highlands areas to breed more draught animals, and as a result the number of breeders has gained 30 percent. Duck-rearing continued developing in many localities, the total of ducks raised in Hai Hung during the spring crop season was nearly 700,000, or 50 per cent more than in the whole year of 1972. Fish-breeding has been expanded in co-operatives in Vinh Phu, Ha Tay, Nam Ha, Hai Hung provinces. Ha Tay in particular could boast 9 fish-rearing units in the first six months of 1973, where *tram co* has been made to spawn in ponds by artificial methods, 7 million small fish 5 times more than in 1972.

Meanwhile, the filling-up of bomb craters in war-devastated areas has been stepped up specially in the provinces of the former 4th Interzone, most severely blitzed by the US Air Force. After the re-establishment of peace, 18 battalions of full-time militiamen were deployed at Quynh Luu district (Nghe An province) in filling up bomb craters and reclaiming land. In Vinh Linh, many basaltic areas pock-marked with bombcraters were turned, in ten days only, into field of pepper, cassava or sweet potato. In a number of localities, cooperative farmers benefited from the help of tractors and bulldozers, which speeded up the transformation of those lands into cultivated fields.

Various industries, in their race against time, have recorded very important achievements in both repairing and restoring their equipment, and in pushing ahead production.

Nearly all power-houses have been put back into commission. A number of grids and transformers are under construction.

In coal mining, a great amount of earth and stones has been removed transport means have been repaired, loading and unloading facilities rehabilitated.

Engineering has focused its activity on re-installing its machinery at former sites. Priority has been given to stabilizing production and to turning out transport means such as barges, tow-boats, repairing damaged carriages and producing spare parts for cars and tractors, etc.

The building material branch has not been lagging behind. The Hai Phong Cement Works has made laudable efforts in restoring its furnaces and putting a number of them into operation again. The production of bricks, tiles, timber, lime... has been stepped up. In many localities more manpower has been assigned to the production of building materials. Thus the Nam Dinh Textile Complex and Silk Factory, the C.50 Engineering Works have detailed part of their work force to the making of 40 percent of the building materials needed for the restoration and enlargement of their structures. The needs of the Army in building materials has been met, in a number of cases, by engineering or building units which have recorded outstanding achievements in this respect.

The production of consumer goods has been restored and further developed. Some daily necessities like fish sauce, salt, sea fish, sweets, knitting-wear have even shown an increase over last year.

In transport and communications, the most remarkable gain has been the prompt restoration of bridges and roads on the main arteries and of its facilities. Such long bridges as Long Bien, Duong, Viet Tri, Dap Cau, Lai Vu, Phu Luong... have all been rehabilitated. Hundreds of war-damaged carriages have also been restored to use. Important railway stations and sea and river ports are under repair.

The people's living has been further stabilized. In the first six months of this year, efforts were concentrated on solving the problems of food, housing, schooling and health considered the most pressing ones in the post-war economy.

A notable feature has been the emergence of a "mutual help" movement in many localities in rebuilding houses destroyed during the war. Ha Tay co-operatives have helped Hanoi in the task, so have Hai Phong suburban districts for Hai Phong city, and Nam Ha districts for Nam Dinh city and Phu Ly town... Thanks to this drive, Nam Ha, Ha Tay, Hai Phong, Quang Ninh, Hanoi... have built temporary structures for their inhabitants in a relatively short time. The State has allotted a considerable volume of building material to the repairing of hundreds of thousands of square metres of housing, to the building of temporary houses and of permanent or semi-permanent solid constructions. The building of temporary ones for workers has been done, in a number of cases, by their own factories.

Special attention has been paid to the education of children. Shortly after the re-establishment of peace, general education schools resumed their activity, the number of schoolchildren of the first degree has increased by 7 percent over last year. Pre-school classes and establishments received 300,000 children of the younger group and 90 percent of the total of those belonging to the elder group. Schools were reopened with some delay, but their *curriculae* have been covered in their entirety with a minimum of shortcomings thanks to the educational department's zeal.

As far as health is concerned, most of the facilities damaged by enemy raids have been put back into operation. More beds have been added to hospitals, district and local hospitals have received additional equipment. Medical treatment dispensed at patients' homes and by roving teams has been stepped up... Disease prevention especially in areas badly stricken by the war has been given a new impetus, with the sending of medical teams down to the grass-roots level to help the population do it themselves.

The Information and Culture Department has extended its activity with exhibitions, theatrical performances, film shows, more books and newspapers to popularize among the people the meaning of the nation's victory, to create an atmosphere of enthusiasm among various social sections and to speed up production in the new stage.

In the last six months, although a lot of post-war difficulties had to be dealt with, the North Vietnamese people at all levels and in all localities did their utmost to wipe out the war aftermaths. What is reported above is only a beginning — an important and promising beginning — for the next stage of economic rehabilitation and development.

The First Priority

(Continued from page 1)

implementation of the cease-fire. But so far such offers have been turned down and drowned by adverse truculent bluster and gunfire. Our patience has been strained to breaking point. On July 4, 1973, the command of the PLAF of Kontum served a stern warning on the other side: "We shall not tolerate any fresh enemy assaults which take advantage of our faithfulness to the Agreement on the areas in Kontum controlled by the GRG. Our retaliation will be proportionate in size and strength to their attacks. If they continue to shell and bomb, and smuggle commandos into our zone, we shall not only mount local counter-offensives but also press our attacks further into their rear, or on other territories of theirs. As far as we are concerned, we have displayed unquestionable good will, truthfulness and self-control. But we shall not let pass unpunished any violation or attempt to wreck the cease-fire." This local warning from the Kontum command will also stand elsewhere and in practice it has been translated into deeds. Due counterblows have been dealt at the land-grabbers and raiders, resulting in the latter's heavy losses in men and material like in Quang Nam, Kontum, My Tho, Chuong Thien, Can Tho, Rach Gia... It is abundantly clear from all that that since the coming into force of the Joint Communiqué, the US and Saigon have not given up their designs and that the latter has been sending thousands of its troops to their ignominious death, to no avail and even at the price of a weaker posture in some places and a sagging morale.

WE do hope that the painful lesson of the past few weeks will sink in and make the other side alive to its obligations to the Paris Agreement and its Protocols and the Joint Communiqué, first and foremost, to their responsibility to scrupulously comply with the cease-fire. The strict implementation of this, a matter of primary urgency at present, will make it possible to enforce the other provisions and consolidate and preserve peace in Viet Nam and in Indochina. We also hope that our friends the world over will continue to denounce with force US-Saigon grievous infringements of the cease-fire and take effective measures to compel them to loyally honour their pledges.

SOUTH VIET NAM in struggle

AGREEMENT ON YUGOSLAVIA'S AID TO PRG SIGNED

AN agreement on the Yugoslav Government's gratuitous material aid to the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam was signed on July 2 in Belgrade as a contribution to post-war reconstruction of South Viet Nam.

Lam Van Luu, Ambassador Extraordinary and J. Petric, First Deputy Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, signed the agreement on behalf of their respective governments.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, First Deputy Secretary of State J.Petric said:

"Our assistance, though small, is significant in that it is a concrete manifestation of Yugoslavia's support for your just struggle. Your struggle will have to go through many difficulties and complications, but we are always optimistic and wish that the South Vietnamese people will win final victory."

★ ★ ★

Here and There

DIAMOND CUT DIAMOND

The passage by an overwhelming majority in the Senate (67 against 15) on June 14 and in the House of Representatives (235 against 172) on June 25 of the bill cutting all appropriations for US military actions in Cambodia and Laos, was clearly indicative of the mood of Congress. The writing on the wall was unmistakable for the White House.

But Tricky Dick lived up to his nickname by using right of veto, on the grounds that the measure would cripple or wreck the opportunity to win a negotiated peace in Cambodia peace through war, which is his leitmotiv — and it would strike a shattering blow at US image in the world, as if no such blow had been dealt already.

Dick's sticking to his intervention in Cambodia, in flagrant violation of Article 20 of the Paris Agreement and of Article 13 of the June 13 Joint Communiqué was tantamount, commented *Reuter*, to imposing his will on the Capitol.

But for thick tangerine skin there are sharp finger nails, as a Vietnamese saying goes, which is the equivalent of the English "diamond cut diamond." In a counter-move, the Senate attached by a 67 to 29 majority the above-mentioned amendment to another bill granting a temporary 3 month moratorium to all the budget's credits. It Dick again made use of his veto, he would have to do so against two bills at the same time, which would leave his administration without money to operate after June 30, end of US fiscal year.

And all that at a time when Dick's authority was pretty shaken as a result of Watergate.

COMPROMISE

And it set Dick's brain working hard.

At last he complied by signing on July 1, a new act cutting all appropriations for bombings in Cambodia after August 15, 1973. He made it amply clear however that after that date, he would ask Congress for advice about what to do to secure peace in Cambodia (*AP*). This means that if a political solution could not be achieved, he would ask for new credits for fresh air strikes there. Beating about the bush, he still thinks he will be able to get his own way and salvage his tottering authority.

Having obtained a breather, he has stepped up his airforce actions which Beecher, the spokesman of the Defense Department, described as 50% fiercer over the last few days. The present daily average is 200 including 40 by B.52's.

But Western sources opine that despite this formidable deployment of all US aircraft available in Southeast Asia, B.52's and F.111's included, in round-the-clock raids to shore up the cranky Phom Penh regime in the last four mounths, the latter's military posture has not been any better.

In his June 3 editorial in the *Washington Post*, Joseph Kraft thought Nixon had better stop immediately his air war in Cambodia. His acceptance to do so only after August 15 will only bring out US absurd role in the Indochina war. And Senator W. Mundel of the Democratic Party scored in a statement US escalation as an act of perjury, a breach of the agreement concluded between the Capitol and Nixon that all US air activities in Indochina should cease on August 15.

THE MOTHS

Ironically enough, it was in the thick of US bombings that the Cambodian PLAF pressed their attacks on US stooges' sanctuaries around Phnom Penh.

Which sent Dick's confederates in Saigon and Bangkok into a flurry. Thieu at once clamoured he would wade in with his planes and infantry. Thanom Kitticachorn intimated that 7,000 mercenaries of his, pulled out of Laos, would be transferred to Cambodia.

The bitter lessons of Viet Nam and Laos do not seem to have sunk into the US imperalists' and their agents' minds. In pursuing their military intervention in Indochina and their playing off Asians against Asians on the one hand, and their betrayal to their countries on the other, both warmongers and their henchmen will not be able to ressuscitate corpses and dodge the punishment that the Khmer people will not fail to inflict on them, let alone the indignation of their own people, and that of the American and world peoples.

It is in the nature of the moths to flutter about light and scorch themselves.

HUONG NAM

DPRK

for peaceful reunification

THE *Anti-US Actions Month* in DPRK has begun this year with a rally of twenty thousand youths and students in Pyong Yang. Varied activities to mark the 20th anniversary of the victory over the US (July 27) have been unfolding throughout the country.

Though forced to sign the Panmunjon peace agreement, US imperialism has not given up its aggressive scheme over the last twenty years. It has kept its occupation forces in the Southern part of the Korean peninsula, turning it into a US military base and neo-colony. On the one hand, the American occupation forces and local US agents have kept on smuggling spies and commandos into the DPRK, to sabotage its peaceful construction and staging provocative military manoeuvres such as "joint manoeuvres" and "ground air target practice." On the other hand, the Yankees have been beefing up a tremendous mercenary force including a 700,000-strong standing army and a million or so reserves. In recent years, in execution of the Nixon doctrine, they have poured in a considerable quantity of hardware to "modernize" the Pak Jung Hee army, and at the same time opened South Korea's doors to Japanese militarism. The Pak administration, a pliant US neo-colonialist tool has been ruthlessly victimizing patriotic, progressive and democratic forces, and has refused to respond positively to the DPRK government's proposals for Korea's reunification by peaceful and democratic means.

The designs and deeds of the US and its lackeys have been bared one after another by the people in both parts of the country. Spies and commandos have been captured or wiped out soon after they have crossed the 28th parallel. Provocations have been foiled and one has not forgotten how the US spy ship *Pueblo* was captured by the DPRK naval forces on the high sea. Drives against the militarization of schools, draft and land eviction to build military bases, for wage increases, better living conditions and democratic freedoms have been gaining momentum in South Korea.

Meanwhile, against the will of its enemies, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea ranks as an Asian country with a developed industry and advanced culture and science, and has been making firm steps toward socialism. Its output per head of main industrial items is among the world's advanced nations.

For example, electric power: 1,184kw/h, coal: 1975kg, steel and cast iron: 158kg, chemical fertilizers: 108kg, cement: 287kg, cotton cloth: 28m. Supply with adequate agriculture, water conservancy works and electrification of the countryside have been completed, and mechanization and chemicalization have reached a high degree of development. At present the people of the DPRK are striving to fulfil their six-year (1971-1976) plan to raise their country to a new level of prosperity and welfare.

Internationally, the credit of the DPRK continues to rise. Recently, within only one month, several countries such as Argentina, Finland, Denmark, Norway, Iceland, etc. have established diplomatic relations with it. The Medical International Organization has granted it full membership.

The position of the Government and people of the DPRK has been made clear in the appeal of its 5th National Assembly April 1973 session, and in the 5-point declaration of President Kim Il Sung dated June 23, 1973. It is totally consistent with the present situation and the aspirations of the people in the two parts of the peninsula. It has enlisted the sympathy and support of progressive word opinion.

On this occasion, the South Vietnamese people reaffirm their support to the legitimate effort of the fraternal people of Korea. They resolutely urge the total withdrawal of US troops from South Korea. the dissolution of the so-called "United Nations Committee for the Unification and Rehabilitation of Korea," and an end to US military aid tc South Korea and to US interference in the internal affairs of Korea.

We also wish to thank the Korean people, the Workers Party and the Government of the DPRK led by President Kim Il Sung for their wholehearted support and aid to our fight against US aggression. We are confident that with their innate feeling of solidarity, perseverance and courage, the Korean people will win final victory.

DAI LIEN

* in brief * in brief

— The second edition of President Ho Chi Minh's *Prison Diary* has come out in Norway with corrections and notes by well-known Norwegian writer Tor Obrestad after many years of elaborate research on Viet Nam.

The new translation of *Prison Diary* is not only a much better rendition of the poems but also a work written in the finest literary Norwegian.

— Over five tons of goods including books, copy-books, school articles, medicaments, textile, clothing, toys... contributed by pupils throughout the Soviet Union have been sent to the South Vietnamese children.

Their Soviet counterparts have enclosed in their cases of gifts many letters, pictures, postcards, and other souvenirs.

— In the German Democratic Republic, *Voice of the GDR Radio* and *Berlin Radio* organized a Viet Nam Week (21/6 — 1/7) to make known to the German public the life, fight and construction work as well as the age-old history and culture of the Vietnamese people.

German authors Kochen Hauser and Herst Hirt recorded their impressions of Viet Nam in the book *Viet Nam Today*. Rainer Koch produced the radio play *Con Dao Prison* also called *Meaning of Life*, basing himself on Nguyen Duc Thuan's *Indomitable*. Erwin Viemer wrote *Eternal Soldiers*. All these works demonstrated that Viet Nam is a typical part of a struggle of international importance.

A prominent part of the program was reserved for the presentation of the poem-story *Kieu* by the great Vietnamese poet Nguyen Du.

— The Red Cross organization in Liberec district (Czechoslovakia) has collected 50,000 kronor for the Viet Nam fund.

— Up to July 2, 1973, the Swedish National Committee of Fund Raising for the Reconstruction of the Bach Mai hospital (Hanoi) gathered 10.4 million kronor. The collection was initiated by five political parties and many trade union organizations in Sweden conducted by a committee headed by former Prime Minister Tage Erlander.

The Swedish Government has promised to double the sum, once 10 million kronor have been reached, i.e. a total of 20.4 million kronor.

• The Resolution of the First Congress for Sovereignty and Peace of Central American Countries (Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala and Costa Rica) and Panama held in Panama from June 8 to 10, 1973 set out the three following major tasks at present: intensify the activities in support of the Indochinese peoples, denounce and oppose US intervention and aggression against the Indochinese peoples, and launch a campaign of solidarity with the Indochinese peoples on the occasion of July 20 this year, 19th anniversary of the signing of the Geneva Agreements on Indochina.

• The Viet Nam Committee in Switzerland has published a petition bearing 7,771 signatures urging the United States and the Saigon administration to set free immediately all political prisoners and ensure the democratic freedoms of the South Vietnamese people. The petition pointed out that "many political prisoners had been changed (by the Saigon administration) into common criminals, others had been impressed into the Saigon army and still others had been taken to unknown destinations..."

The petition has been sent to the member countries of the International Commission for Supervision and Control of the Implementation of the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam, the signatories to the Agreement, the Secretary General of the United Nations, Pope Paul VI and the Federal Council of Switzerland.

• On June 26, the conference to review the movement and discuss new support-Viet Nam actions of the Norwegian Committee of Solidarity with Viet Nam unanimously adopted a program of intensified activies in the present situation. The statement of the Conference said among other things: "In violation of the Paris Agreement, the Thieu regime continues to detain 200,000 political prisoners and hundreds of thousands of other persons are still penned up in "strategic hamlets" and concentration camps, and prevented from returning to their native villages. Political prisoners continue to suffer brutal treatment and to be secretly disposed of..."

• On June 23, a week of solidarity with Viet Nam opened in Deera, Arab Republic of Syria. A pictorial exhibition on Viet Nam was held and many Vietnamese films were shown in this week.

• On July 4, Independence Day of the United States, many leaders of the Communist Party and the Young Communists League of Britain, together with many Labour MPs and trade union leaders staged a vigil in front of the US Embassy in London to urge the Nixon administration to end US aggression in the whole of Indochina and let the people of these countries decide their own future. The demonstrators handed in a petition demanding the US and the Saigon administration to strictly abide by the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam.

SOUTH VIET NAM CENTRAL ORGAN OF THE SOUTH VIET NAM NATIONAL FRONT FOR LIBERATION